

August 21, 1951.

Dr. Reese Vaughn,
Division of Food Technology,
University of California,
Berkeley 4, California.

Dear Dr. Vaughn:

In reply to your letter of the 10th, I should say that we would like to test as many cultures of your 500 or 1000 as you would be willing to send. I hesitated to be more explicit, because I know what a burden it would be to handle such a large collection. However, we will be glad to assume the financial responsibility for it. There is no great urgency about the matter, for this program will be continued on a long-term basis. Therefore, if your cultures are now stored on agar slants, it would be perfectly satisfactory if you would wait until they are due to be transferred again, and simply send us the old ones. We would then remove our inocula, clean up the tubes and return them to you.

Again may I emphasize that we know what we are asking for, and would be neither surprised nor disaffected in the slightest at an unfavorable reaction on your part.

Naturally, the more information of a general sort that would be available, concerning the sample to be screened, the better. From our point of view, it seems to be worthwhile for us to continue to test even unclassified isolates for which there is any indication that there is not excessive duplication. With human material, for example, we have assumed that this is achieved by testing no more than one isolate per person.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg.